

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 00779 131521Z

67

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 AID-20 DEAE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10

TRSE-00 USIA-15 SCI-06 OMB-01 L-03 OIC-04 DRC-01 /143 W

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R 121428Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2953

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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GENEVA FOR AMB. VANCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, NL, UN

SUBJ: DUTCH PARTICIPATION AT 3RD SPECIAL SESSION OF CND

REF: A) STATE 24898

B) STATE 26073

C) HAGUE 247

1. EMBASSY HAS BRIEFED MIN HEALTH OFFICIALS WHO WILL BE ATTENDING CND SESSION AS OBSERVERS (R.J. SAMSOM AND VAN GRUTING, NEW HEAD OF SECTION ON DANGEROUS DRUGS), ON US POSITION ON ITEM 9 OF AGENDA, AS CONTAINED IN PARAS ONE THROUGH FOUR OF REF (B). SAMSOM REACTED QUITE FAVORABLY TO ENVISAGED US APPROACH, SAYING THAT THE QUESTION OF AN ADEQUATE LEVEL OF SUPPLY OF MEDICINAL OPIATES

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PAGE 02 THE HA 00779 131521Z

HAS BEEN AMATTER OF CONCERN TO DUTCH FOR LAST

COUPLE OF YEARS. (NOTE: ISSUE IS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO NETHERLANDS, WHICH PRODUCES SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES OF MEDICINAL OPIATES FROM POPPY STRAW. ACCORDING TO SAMSOM, NETHERLANDS ACCOUNTS FOR ABOUT 15 PERCENT OF WORLD EXPORTS OF MEDICINAL OPIATES.)

2. HOWEVER, DUTCH DEL WILL PURSUE LOW PROFILE AT CND AND DOES NOT PLAN TO ADDRESS ANY SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS ON AGENDA IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT STATE OF FLUX IN DUTCH DRUG POLICY.

3. WHILE DUTCH DO NOT PLAN TO ENTER DEBATES, SAMSOM SUGGESTED THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY UNDERTAKE SOME INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH DELEGATIONS RE POSSIBILITIES OF AMENDING SINGLE CONVENTION IN MANNER THAT WOULD PERMIT PARTIES TO PURSUE INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL POLICIES ON THE USE OF CANNABIS PRODUCTS. (THESE CONSULTATIONS WERE ENVISAGED IN THE GON'S RECENT DRUG NOTE TO PARLIAMENT, REPORTED REF C). IN THAT CONNECTION, SAMSOM ASKED WHETHER EMBASSY HAD PASSED ON CONTENTS OF GON'S DRUG NOTE TO WASHINGTON AGENCIES AND, IF SO, WHETHER USDEL WOULD MAKE STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION OF GON POLICY PROPOSAL. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT WE HAD REPORTED TO WASHINGTON ON GON NOTE, BUT THAT WE ARE NOT AWARE THAT US HAS ANY INTENTION OF ADDRESSING ISSUE AT CND. IT IS OF COURSE CONCEIVABLE, AND EVEN LIKELY, EMBOFF CONTINUED, THAT USDEL WOULD OFFER VIEWS TO DUTCH PRIVATELY ON THAT QUESTION. WITH SIGH OF RELIEF, SAMSOM, DEFENSIVELY, STATED THAT PUBLIC AIRING OF ISSUE NOW WOULD BE PREMATURE SINCE DUTCH PARLIAMENT HAS YET TO BEGIN DELIBERATIONS ON GON NOTE, AND DOES NOT APPEAR LIKELY TO DO SO PRIOR TO PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 8.

4. COMMENT: WHILE EMBASSY BELIEVES OPEN (PUBLIC) DISCUSSION OF GON PROPOSED POLICY WOULD NOT BE IN ORDER AT CND, WE FEEL USDEL HAS GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE US VIEWS ON GON POLICY KNOWN TO DUTCH THROUGH PRIVATE DISCUSSION WITH SAMSOM, WHO WILL PROBABLY TAKE INITIATIVE IN RAISING THE SUBJECT WITH USDEL. AS DESCRIBED BY SAMSOM, STEPS WHICH GON INTENDS TO TAKE AT PRESENT IN RE CANNABIS ARE A) ESTABLISH NEW REGIME FOR HANDLING OF OFFENDERS AND B) SEEK VIEWS OF PARTIES TO SINGLE CONVENTION ON POSSIBILITIES OF AMENDING THE CONVENTION SO AS TO ENABLE STATES WHO WISH TO PERMIT CONSUMPTION OF MARIJUANA AND HASHISH TO DO SO (LEGALIZATION OF CANNABIS USE IN NETHERS IS STATED GON GOAL). CURRENT GON THINKING ON POINT A), LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 THE HA 00779 131521Z

ACCORDING TO SAMSOM, IS TO ESTABLISH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOUR LEVELS OF LEGAL TREATMENT FOR OFFENDERS AS FOLLOWS. INDIVIDUALS APPREHENDED WITH SMALL QUANTITIES FOR PERSONAL CONSUMPTION WOULD BE GUILTY OF INFRACTION AND SUBJECT TO A FINE (STATUS OF OFFENSE WOULD BE COMPARABLE TO TRAFFIC VIOLATION). INDIVIDUALS SHARING CANNABIS PRODUCTS WITH OTHERS FOR NO ECONOMIC GAIN WOULD BE GUILTY OF SOMEWHAT MORE SERIOUS VIOLATION. THOSE INVOLVED IN DOMESTIC TRAFFIC FOR ECONOMIC GAIN WOULD BE SUBJECT TO STIFFER PENALTIES YET,

WHILE INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKERS OF COMMERCIAL QUANTITIES WOULD BE
TREATED STILL MORE SEVERELY. CRITERIA FOR DEMARCATING
VARIOUS LEVELS OF OFFENSES AND RESPECTIVE MAXIMUM PENALTIES
WHICH MAY BE PERMITTED ARE ISSUES PRESENTLY UNDER STUDY BY GON.
GOULD

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